

**Kelly Creek Neighborhood Association  
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
Gordon Russell Middle School  
3625 SE Powell Valley Road  
Gresham, OR 97080  
Wednesday, March 19, 2014**

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Meeting was called to order by KCNA President Dick Schneider at 7:05 PM. Quorum was established. (See attached signature roster for 15 attendees and 2 presenters.)

Board members were introduced and new members were introduced and welcomed to the meeting. New member prizes were distributed.

**Reports:** Land Use Director Carol Rulla first passed around a volunteer sign-up sheet for the upcoming East Gresham Community Information Fair. Members were encouraged to let any officer know of any good location for yard sign placement to advertise the Fair.

Carol then reported on the current land use issues within KCNA. The zone change for the property located at Welch Road and Orient Drive is proceeding forward through the City Council. This is a zone change from MDR 24 to TR that was requested by KCNA. After the second reading and vote, the change would go into effect after thirty days if approved. There will be another Early Neighborhood Notification (ENN) meeting on the proposed subdivision after the zone change goes into effect. There has also been an ENN meeting on a proposed subdivision of the property located on the north side of 282<sup>nd</sup> and Lusted Road. Concerns were raised on the driveways proposed for Lusted Road and the developer will try to address those concerns. An application has also come through for commercial property on the South corner of 282<sup>nd</sup> and Lusted Road. Members will be notified of any future ENN meetings through email.

Secretary-Treasurer Kathi Schneider reported the balance in the treasury was \$700 which is to be used for the 2014 East Gresham Community Information Fair which will be held on May 28, 2014 at Greater Gresham Baptist Church. .

Minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed. With no corrections, the January 22, 2014 minutes were approved.

**Presentations:** Eric Chambers, a senior manager with the City of Gresham, gave a factual presentation on the Gresham Police, Fire and Parks levy that will be on the May 2014 ballot. The proposed levy is a 5-year property tax measure that would fund police, fire and parks service in the City of Gresham, with 95% of this revenue dedicated to police and fire services, and the remaining 5% dedicated to parks. The levy proceeds would be placed into a dedicated and protected fund and the City's Finance committee would provide oversight of levy revenues. This levy would replace the City's temporary \$7.50 per month fee on the utilities which is set to expire on June 30, 2014.

Gresham's permanent property tax rate is currently set at \$3.61 per \$1,000 of taxable assessment per Oregon's property tax system. This is one of the lowest tax rates in the state. Current service levels cannot be maintained without additional revenue.

City Councilor Karylenn Echols spoke in favor of the levy. The levy would provide key essential core services to the citizens of Gresham. When the utility fee was discussed, over ten public meetings were held. It is vital that the core services are protected and the levy would do just that by generating funds to replace the utility fee. She explained that the City Council is

100% behind the levy and will all be actively working towards its passage in an effort to keep the community safe and vibrant.

Mr. Chambers explained how the limitations on property taxes were set in 1997 due to Measure 50. Gresham's population has grown significantly since that time becoming the fourth largest city in Oregon. However, at \$3.61 per \$1,000 of assessed value, the City's generated revenue is less than any of the top ten cities in Oregon. Gresham has survived by their own efficiency and through grants.

Question was asked as to what percentage of funds currently went towards the fire and police budgets now, and Councilor Echols' answer was about 90% of the General Funds are budgeted for these two departments. Question was asked as to how much money was raised by the utility fee. Mr. Chambers answer was the 17-month utility fee generated between \$4.7 to \$5 million dollars. Ms. Echols further stated that the City is looking for a long-term solution to the deficit problem. It is estimated that the levy would generate about the same amount of revenue. These funds are not to expand the departments but rather would pay for core services to maintain what the City currently provides. The revenue generated by the expiring fee represents the equivalent of about 20 police officers, two fire stations and about one-third of the City's park maintenance staff.

Question was asked if the citizens would see more police officers on the street if the levy was passed. Answer was no, the levy would only maintain what the City currently has, not add to it. Many citizens expressed concern about the amount of money it takes to help control crime in the Rockwood neighborhood of Gresham. It was explained that Rockwood was part of the City of Gresham, and therefore needed the police protection, as much as all the other neighborhoods. One of the purposes of putting the new police station in the Rockwood area was to increase the police presence in the area which will hopefully cut down on the number of calls from that area. Also Mr. Chambers stated that there were several industrial properties in the Rockwood area that added substantially to the City's revenue.

Several members shared stories on prompt police and fire response within the last year and how they appreciate what the City has done to help maintain the core services.

Councilor Echols also announced that a new off-leash dog park was just opened in Main City Park in downtown Gresham. There is also an off-leash part outside of Troutdale at the Lewis and Clark Exit off of I84.

**KCNA News:** President Schneider announced that KCNA would be hosting a Listening Session with Gresham City Councilors on Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at Gordon Russell Middle School, from 6:30 to 8 PM. There will be three City Councilors in attendance to discuss issues within the City. Everyone is invited to attend. This is a great opportunity to provide input to our City.

Members were also encouraged to attend the upcoming East Gresham Community Information Fair on Wednesday, May 28, 2014 from 6 to 8 PM at Greater Gresham Baptist Church.

Members were referred to the back of the agenda for further announcements. Raffle ticket was drawn, and prize was awarded.

Members enjoyed informal time to discuss their concerns with Councilor Echols and Mr. Chambers. Shannon Chisom and Barbara Cannard provided refreshments.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40 PM.

Minutes submitted by Kathi Schneider, KNCA Secretary-Treasurer